



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Annual Drinking Water Report Shows Health-Based Violations Down ***Most plant violations involve reporting***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 17, 2013) – The Annual Compliance Report (ACR) on public water systems prepared by the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) indicates health-based violations dropped from 96 in 2011 to 48 in 2012.

The report, required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, lists Kentucky's 454 public water systems and any violations imposed in the previous calendar year. The 454 systems include cities, water districts, manufactured housing communities, schools, parks and campgrounds.

Kentucky's public water supply systems test on a regular basis for bacteria, nitrates and other inorganic chemicals, radiological elements and more than 100 industrial chemicals and pesticides. The results are monitored by DOW. A water system that exceeds the standards for a contaminant is required to take corrective action and notify its customers.

Most Kentucky water systems test their drinking water as required, submit the results to the Kentucky Division of Water on time and demonstrate that their drinking water meets the maximum contaminant levels. When discrepancies occur, DOW issues a violation. The Annual Compliance Report compiles these violations and makes them available to the public.

"The 2012 ACR reveals that the majority of violations at Kentucky's public water systems last year involved administrative infractions rather than problems with water treatment," said Julie Roney, coordinator of the DOW Drinking Water Program. "Once a violation is issued, treatment is usually adjusted very quickly and most supplies soon return to the required ranges."

Roney said the division does, however, take seriously the requirement of public water systems to submit accurate monitoring reports in a timely manner. This emphasis is reflected in the number of administrative violations, which increased from 228 in 2011 to 398 in 2012. Administrative violations include reporting incorrect data as well as omitting required information and data.

The DOW continues to work with public water systems to help them adhere to all rules and regulations.

"We are encouraging public water systems to be more meticulous in their reviews of laboratory reports to ensure accuracy and completeness before they are sent to the Division of Water," said Roney. "We are also encouraging these laboratories to consider using electronic data submittal to

minimize manual report errors. Water system staff and operators are also urged to attend DOW training events that provide information on current rules and guidelines as well as utility management.”

The 2012 compliance report may be viewed in summary and detailed formats at <http://water.ky.gov/DrinkingWater/Pages/AnnualComplianceReports.aspx>. The summary report is arranged by contaminant while the detailed document is arranged by public water system. For more information about the report, contact Natalie Bruner at 502-564-3410.

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